

SAFETY ALERT

APPE-CP

1 December 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL "ONE TEAM" MEMBERS

SUBJECT: A Lost Comrade

1. Too many Soldiers are getting hurt or dying in accidents. Losing a Soldier on the battlefield is tragic; losing one to a needless accident is inexcusable. Our losses to accidents are increasing, we must make some changes in order to save lives.

2. Let me share with you the sad details of a recent accident here in USARPAC.

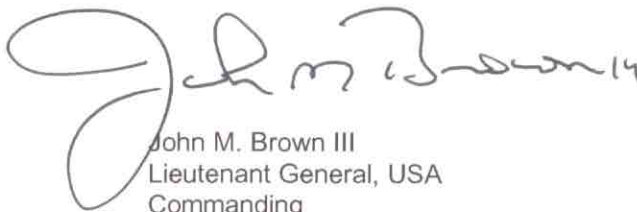
a. Basic facts. A few months ago, a group of four Soldiers went out to celebrate the 25th birthday of one in the group--Greg. The party started at a friend's house and then moved to a popular dance club where they had "at least" two beers. After Greg declined to allow the designated driver to drive, the group started the trip home. While on Ala Moana Boulevard, Greg sped up to about 55-65 mph (in a 35 mph zone) in order to pass another vehicle. Unfortunately, another car swerved toward their car. Greg over-reacted, plowing his vehicle into a tree in the median of the highway. He was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident; his friends survived with minor injuries.

b. The cost. You can't quantify a loss as tragic as this, but it is enormous. Greg left behind a wife and two kids who have to rebuild their lives without a husband and father. He was a well respected Soldier with a bright future in the Army. He died a week before his unit deployed—they were left without his leadership just when they needed him most.

c. Lessons learned. 1) **Don't drink and drive!** 2) **Stick to your plan.** These soldiers had a designated driver, but didn't follow their plan. Regardless of whether you've had one drink or ten, **allow the designated driver to do the driving.** 3) **Speed kills, so SLOW DOWN.** Both air bags deployed successfully, but it wasn't enough to save Greg's life. 4) **Take care of each other.** This sad situation might have turned out differently if Greg's friends had kept him from getting behind the wheel.

3. Questions. Would Greg still be alive if his friends had kept him from getting behind the wheel? Did a leader know about the party and attempt to influence smart decisions? What can you do to keep this from happening in your unit? We can, in fact **we must**, learn from our mistakes. Perhaps that is the only good that can come from Greg's death.

4. Take care of yourself. Take care of each other. Thanks for all you do for the Army team. Have a great Holiday Season. Most importantly, be safe.



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Commanding

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